

Testimony in favor of S.B. 184, AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT and HB 5262 AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING ELIGIBILITY STATUTES ..

Co-Chairs Flexer and Fox, Vice-Chairs Haskell and Thomas, Ranking Members Sampson and Mastrofrancesco, and other committee members. My name is Lawrence R Edwards. I live in Stamford. I'm testifying in support of S.B. 184, AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT and HB 5262, AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN ABSENTEE VOTING ELIGIBILITY STATUTES ..

During the general election of 2020, Connecticut permitted use of absentee ballots by all registered voters who wished to use them in the midst of a pandemic. That was a successful process, thanks to the hard work of our election officials and their staffs and volunteers. I was certainly grateful that I was able to vote absentee because I would not have been able to risk going to vote in-person.

Since the pandemic is not over, and is unlikely to end before the mid-term elections of 2022, we should prepare now to make sure that all CT voters can vote safely and that they are not deprived of their right to vote based on unpredictable pandemic circumstances.

As our elected officials, you should take this opportunity to assure that all registered voters in CT can stay safe and will not be deprived of the ability to exercise their right and duty to vote. There is no reason to expose CT voters to the unpredictable risks of the pandemic or to deprive them of their right to vote. I vote in all elections and I do not want to miss out on an opportunity to vote in 2022 based on not having access to absentee voting.

I urge you to pass HB 5262 and SB 184 without delay. I thank the committee for reading my testimony on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Lawrence R Edwards PhD,
Stamford, CT